

**Aleutian Islands and Atka-Amalia Islands Areas  
Salmon Management Plan, 2005**

**by**

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**and**

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**February 2005**

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**Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

**Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries**



## Symbols and Abbreviations

The following symbols and abbreviations, and others approved for the Système International d'Unités (SI), are used without definition in the following reports by the Divisions of Sport Fish and of Commercial Fisheries: Fishery Manuscripts, Fishery Data Series Reports, Fishery Management Reports, and Special Publications. All others, including deviations from definitions listed below, are noted in the text at first mention, as well as in the titles or footnotes of tables, and in figure or figure captions.

Weights and measures (metric)		General		Measures (fisheries)	
centimeter	cm	Alaska Administrative		fork length	FL
deciliter	dL	Code	AAC	mid-eye-to-fork	MEF
gram	g	all commonly accepted		mid-eye-to-tail-fork	METF
hectare	ha	abbreviations	e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, etc.	standard length	SL
kilogram	kg			total length	TL
kilometer	km	all commonly accepted			
liter	L	professional titles	e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.N., etc.	<b>Mathematics, statistics</b>	
meter	m			<i>all standard mathematical</i>	
milliliter	mL	at	@	<i>signs, symbols and</i>	
millimeter	mm	compass directions:		<i>abbreviations</i>	
		east	E	alternate hypothesis	H <sub>A</sub>
		north	N	base of natural logarithm	<i>e</i>
		south	S	catch per unit effort	CPUE
		west	W	coefficient of variation	CV
		copyright	©	common test statistics	(F, t, $\chi^2$ , etc.)
		corporate suffixes:		confidence interval	CI
		Company	Co.	correlation coefficient	
		Corporation	Corp.	(multiple)	R
		Incorporated	Inc.	correlation coefficient	
		Limited	Ltd.	(simple)	r
		District of Columbia	D.C.	covariance	cov
		et alii (and others)	et al.	degree (angular)	°
		et cetera (and so forth)	etc.	degrees of freedom	df
		exempli gratia		expected value	<i>E</i>
		(for example)	e.g.	greater than	>
		Federal Information		greater than or equal to	≥
		Code	FIC	harvest per unit effort	HPUE
		id est (that is)	i.e.	less than	<
		latitude or longitude	lat. or long.	less than or equal to	≤
		monetary symbols		logarithm (natural)	ln
		(U.S.)	\$, ¢	logarithm (base 10)	log
		months (tables and		logarithm (specify base)	log <sub>2</sub> , etc.
		figures): first three		minute (angular)	'
		letters	Jan,...,Dec	not significant	NS
		registered trademark	®	null hypothesis	H <sub>0</sub>
		trademark	™	percent	%
		United States		probability	P
		(adjective)	U.S.	probability of a type I error	
		United States of		(rejection of the null	
		America (noun)	USA	hypothesis when true)	α
		U.S.C.	United States	probability of a type II error	
			Code	(acceptance of the null	
		U.S. state	use two-letter	hypothesis when false)	β
			abbreviations	second (angular)	"
			(e.g., AK, WA)	standard deviation	SD
				standard error	SE
				variance	
				population	Var
				sample	var
<b>Weights and measures (English)</b>					
cubic feet per second	ft <sup>3</sup> /s				
foot	ft				
gallon	gal				
inch	in				
mile	mi				
nautical mile	nmi				
ounce	oz				
pound	lb				
quart	qt				
yard	yd				
<b>Time and temperature</b>					
day	d				
degrees Celsius	°C				
degrees Fahrenheit	°F				
degrees kelvin	K				
hour	h				
minute	min				
second	s				
<b>Physics and chemistry</b>					
all atomic symbols					
alternating current	AC				
ampere	A				
calorie	cal				
direct current	DC				
hertz	Hz				
horsepower	hp				
hydrogen ion activity	pH				
(negative log of)					
parts per million	ppm				
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰				
volts	V				
watts	W				

***FISHERY MANAGEMENT REPORT NO. 05-04***

**ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AND ATKA-AMLIA ISLANDS AREAS SALMON  
MANAGEMENT PLAN, 2005**

by

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## ABSTRACT

This document outlines the regulations and management strategies for commercial salmon fishing in the Aleutian Islands and Atka-Amlia Management Areas. This plan is intended as a guide for commercial harvesters, buyers, and tender operators. Information regarding specific commercial salmon openings should be received from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) prior to fishing. A harvestable surplus of pink salmon, *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, is anticipated in Unalaska Bay in 2005, due to healthy escapements observed in 2003. Atka-Amlia Islands salmon escapements in 2003 are not known. Commercial fishermen intending to harvest salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area need to register at least 48 hours prior to fishing with ADF&G offices in Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, Sand Point or other locations designated by the department.

Key words: Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amlia Islands, commercial salmon fishery, management plan, Selendang Ayu, oil spill

## ALEUTIAN ISLANDS AREA

### (Excluding Atka-Amlia Islands Area)

The Aleutian Islands Management Area for salmon includes all state waters of the Aleutian Islands west of Cape Sarichef Light (Unimak Island) and west of a line extending from Scotch Cap through the easternmost tip of Ugamak Island to 172°50'.00 W long. (Sequam Pass) and all state waters of the Aleutian Islands west of 175°23'.00 W long. (Atka Pass) to the international date line (Figure 1).

The Aleutian Islands Management Area is part of salmon net gear registration Area M. Seining is the only legal method to harvest salmon in the Aleutian Islands Management Area.

A harvestable surplus of pink salmon, *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, is anticipated in Unalaska Bay during 2005 as escapements (based on limited data) were strong during 2003. The Unalaska District is the only district in the Aleutian Islands Management Area that has produced commercial harvests in the last 30 years. That portion of the Unalaska District outside of Unalaska Bay does not produce large pink salmon runs during odd-numbered years. There are local sockeye salmon, *O. nerka*, runs in the Unalaska District, however, due to the remoteness of the fishery and small size of the stocks, the sockeye salmon harvest is expected to be minimal.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) are working with the *M/V Selendang Ayu* oil spill Unified Command and subcontractors to determine the extent of oiling in Aleutian Islands waters. Information is being collected to determine the location of oil onshore, in the water, and if oil will likely contact fishing gear and fishery resources.

The State of Alaska has a “Zero Tolerance Policy” with respect to oil contamination of seafood. If ADEC determines that an oil spill threatens to contaminate a body of water or management area, fishing vessels, tenders, and seafood processors must be inspected before, during, and after conducting fishing activities or receiving seafood products (18 AAC 34.600-625). Moreover, under authority of AS 16.05.060, the ADF&G will close fisheries in areas where there is a likely threat of contamination.

Based on information collected in late December of 2004, undetermined amounts of oil were present in the Makushin and Skan Bay areas. Because oil was present and posed a threat of contamination to fishing gear, fishery resources, and potential fishery harvests, effective at 12:01 AM January 1, 2005, the department closed state-waters between Cape Kovrizhka (53° 50.67' N

lat.; 167° 09.00' W long.) and Spray Cape (53° 36.83' N lat.; 167° 09.33' W long.) to all commercial fishing.

Closure of this area will specifically affect that portion of the upcoming Unalaska District salmon fishery planned for the Makushin Bay Section beginning July 10, 2005. The Makushin Bay Section will remain closed to all commercial fishing until further notice, pending monitoring and assessment indicating that the threat of contamination is eliminated. The closed area may be enlarged if the threat of contamination expands to adjacent bays and fishing grounds.

In 2005 the department does not expect any salmon harvest in the Aleutian Islands Management Area because of continued poor pink salmon markets and generally smaller pink salmon returns in odd-numbered years. Although no commercial effort is expected, the Kashega Bay Section, located just west of the grounded *M/V Selendang Ayu*, opens by regulation to commercial salmon fishing on June 1, 2005 (5 AAC 12.310). Because the potential for oil contamination exists the department may modify, by emergency order, the fishing season (5 AAC 12.310) and/or the weekly fishing periods (5 AAC 12.320) in the Aleutian Islands Area. The department may limit all commercial salmon fishing to fishing periods established by emergency order. This will enable the department to consider current oil spill data when establishing commercial salmon openings.

Fishermen or processors interested in commercial salmon harvest in the Aleutian Islands Management Area should contact ADF&G offices either in Cold Bay or Sand Point well in advance of fishing operations to give staff adequate time to analyze all the information necessary to consider an opening.

Fishermen are reminded that in January 1998, the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) expanded the waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in the two following locations in the Unalaska District:

- (1) Iliuliuk Harbor vicinity, near the City of Unalaska (Figure 2):

The southwest closed waters line, formerly at the Unalaska-Dutch Harbor bridge, was moved approximately 0.17 nautical miles to a line extending from 53°52.28'N lat., 166°32.68'W long., south of Agnes Beach, to a point at 53°52.28'N lat., 166°33.17'W long., on Amaknak Island.

- (2) Humpback Bay, located within Makushin Bay (Figure 3):

All waters of Humpback Bay enclosed by a line from the western tip of Cathedral Point to 53°45.23' N lat., 166°53.63'W long.

The Humpback Bay closed waters may be reduced by emergency order if ADF&G can document an adequate pink salmon escapement into the streams at the head of the bay and the potential for oil contamination of the harvest and gear does not exist.

A complete description of closed waters in the Aleutian Islands Area is listed in the current (2004-07) regulation book (5 AAC 12.350).

## **ATKA-AMLIA AREA**

In November 1991 the BOF created an experimental open-to-entry set gillnet salmon fishery around Atka and Amlia Islands. The Atka-Amlia Islands Management Area (Area F) is bounded by



172°50.00' W long. (Sequam Pass) on the east and 175°23.00' W long. (Atka Pass) on the west (Figures 1 and 4). In addition to set gillnet gear, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) Area M purse seine permit holders may also harvest salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area.

Area F set gillnet permit holders and each Area M seine permit holders intending to commercially harvest salmon in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area must register each vessel they will operate with the ADF&G. Salmon buyers, processors, and vessels acting as salmon tenders are also required to register prior to operating in the Atka-Amlia Area. Participants can register by contacting the ADF&G office in Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, Sand Point, or other locations designated by the department, at least 48 hours prior to commercial salmon fishing in the Atka-Amlia Islands Area. The addresses and phone numbers for the Cold Bay, Dutch Harbor, and Sand Point ADF&G offices are as follows:

<p><b>ADF&amp;G</b> P.O. Box 50 Cold Bay, AK 99571 Phone: 532-2419 Fax: 532-2470</p>	<p><b>ADF&amp;G</b> P.O. Box 920587 Dutch Harbor, AK 99692 Phone: 581-1219 Fax: 581-1572</p>	<p><b>ADF&amp;G</b> P.O. Box 129 Sand Point, AK 99661 Phone: 383-2066 Fax: 383-2606</p>
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The Atka-Amilia Islands Area fishing season is from August 1 through August 31. Fishing periods will be from 6:00 AM until 6:00 PM during Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (5 AAC 11.321). All waters within 500 yards of the mouth of all salmon streams are closed to commercial salmon fishing. Fishing time and closed waters may be adjusted inseason based on catch and escapement information. The department has not projected the size of the 2005 Atka-Amlia Islands Area pink salmon run.

Purse seine gear specifications are the same for the Atka-Amlia Islands and Aleutian Islands Areas. Purse seines and hand purse seines may not be less than 100 fathoms nor more than 250 fathoms in length. No lead may be less than 25 fathoms nor more than 150 fathoms in length (5 AAC 11.335).

Set gillnet specifications are in (5 AAC 11.334):

1. Each CFEC permit holder may operate no more than one set gillnet of which the length cannot exceed 100 fathoms (not including the lead, see number 5 below).
2. A set gillnet must be operated in a substantially straight line, with no more than 25 fathoms of the offshore end set in any configuration.
3. The mesh size of a set gillnet shall not exceed five inches.
4. The maximum depth of a set gillnet shall not exceed 90 meshes.
5. Twenty-five fathoms of seine webbing may be used as a lead, and may be attached only to the shoreward end of a set gillnet; the shoreward end of the lead or gillnet must be attached to the beach above high tide.
6. During hours of darkness, each set gillnet must be marked with at least one red light on the seaward end of the net.
7. No vessel used for set gillnet fishing may exceed 29 feet in overall length (5 AAC 11.342).

Salmon caught for commercial fishing bait must be harvested following the specifications listed above. Salmon taken under subsistence regulations may not be used as bait for commercial fishing purposes as stated in 5 AAC 01.010 (m).

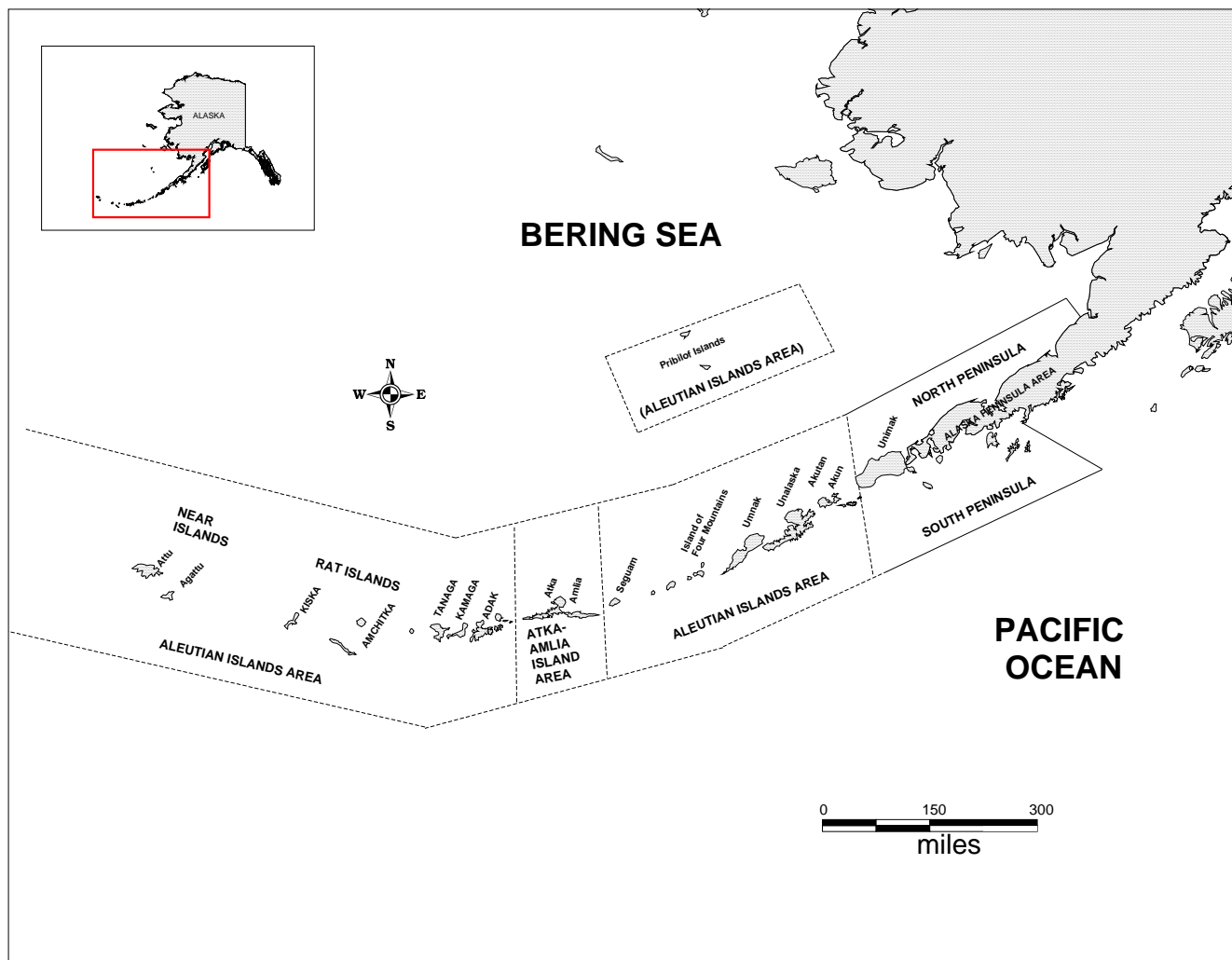
## **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

All catch reports by processors in the Aleutian Islands and Atka-Amlia Island Areas shall be phoned or faxed to the ADF&G office in Cold Bay by 10:00 AM the morning following each commercial salmon fishing period. The catch report shall list by location the number of salmon and pounds purchased by species and the number of permit holders making deliveries. Fishermen who do not sell their fish, but retain them for bait or home pack are also required to phone or fax a catch report to the Cold Bay office by 10:00 AM the morning following a fishing period.

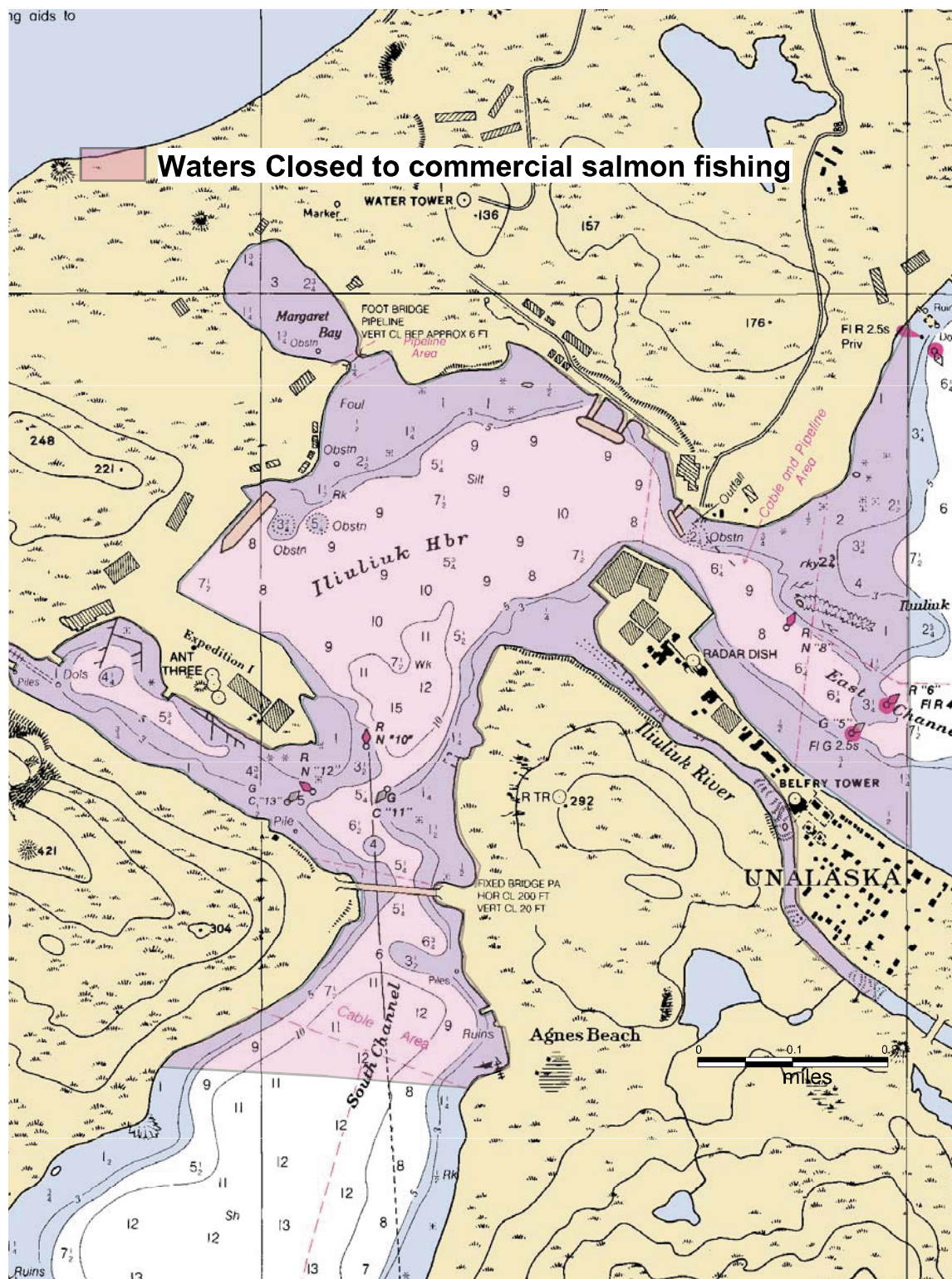
## **GPS COORDINATES AND ENFORCEMENT**

At the February 2004 meeting, the BOF adopted a regulation stating that all latitude and longitude coordinates in Aleutian Islands and Atka-Amlia Islands Areas will be determined and enforced using the Global Positioning System (GPS).

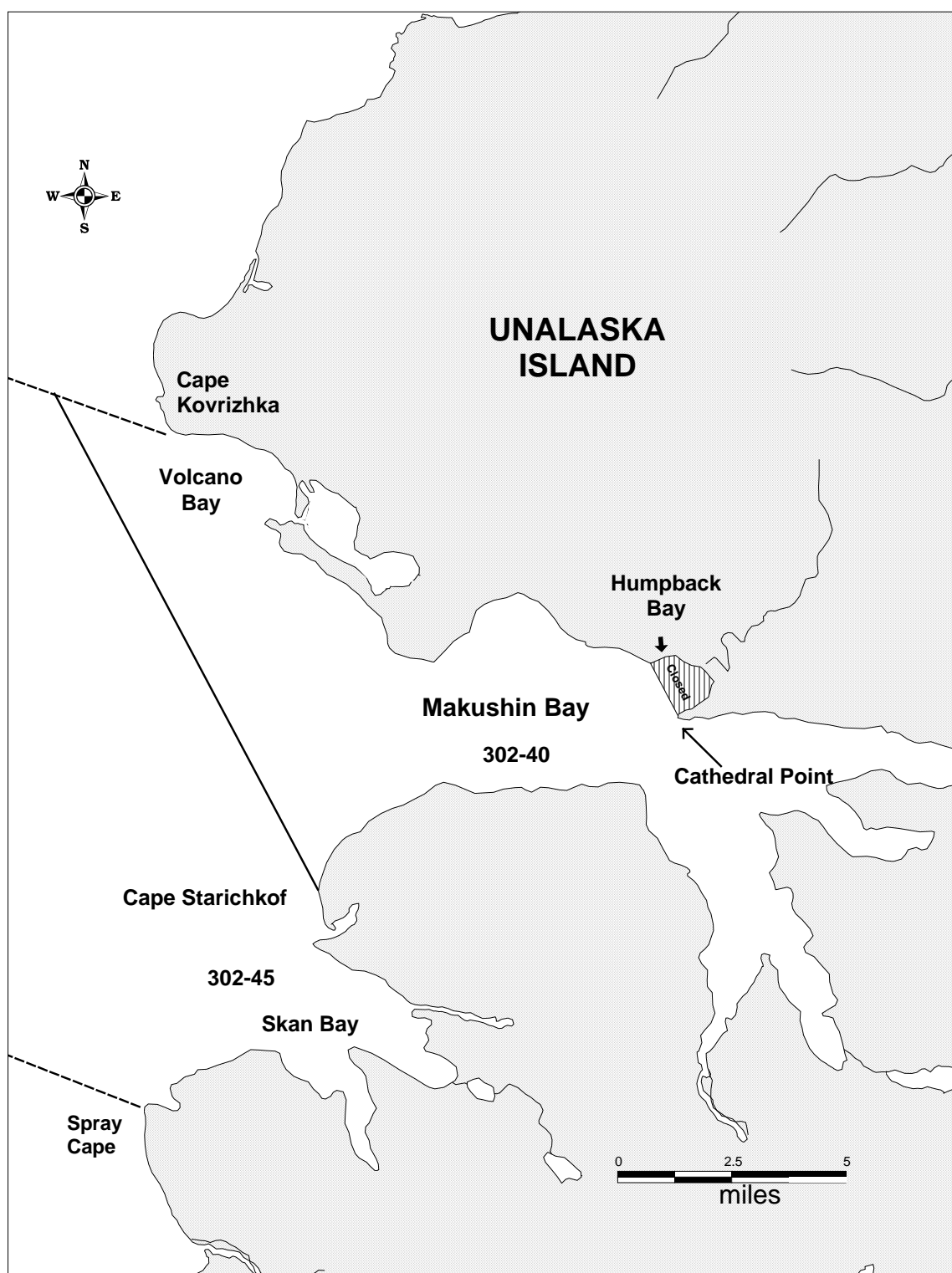
## **FIGURES**



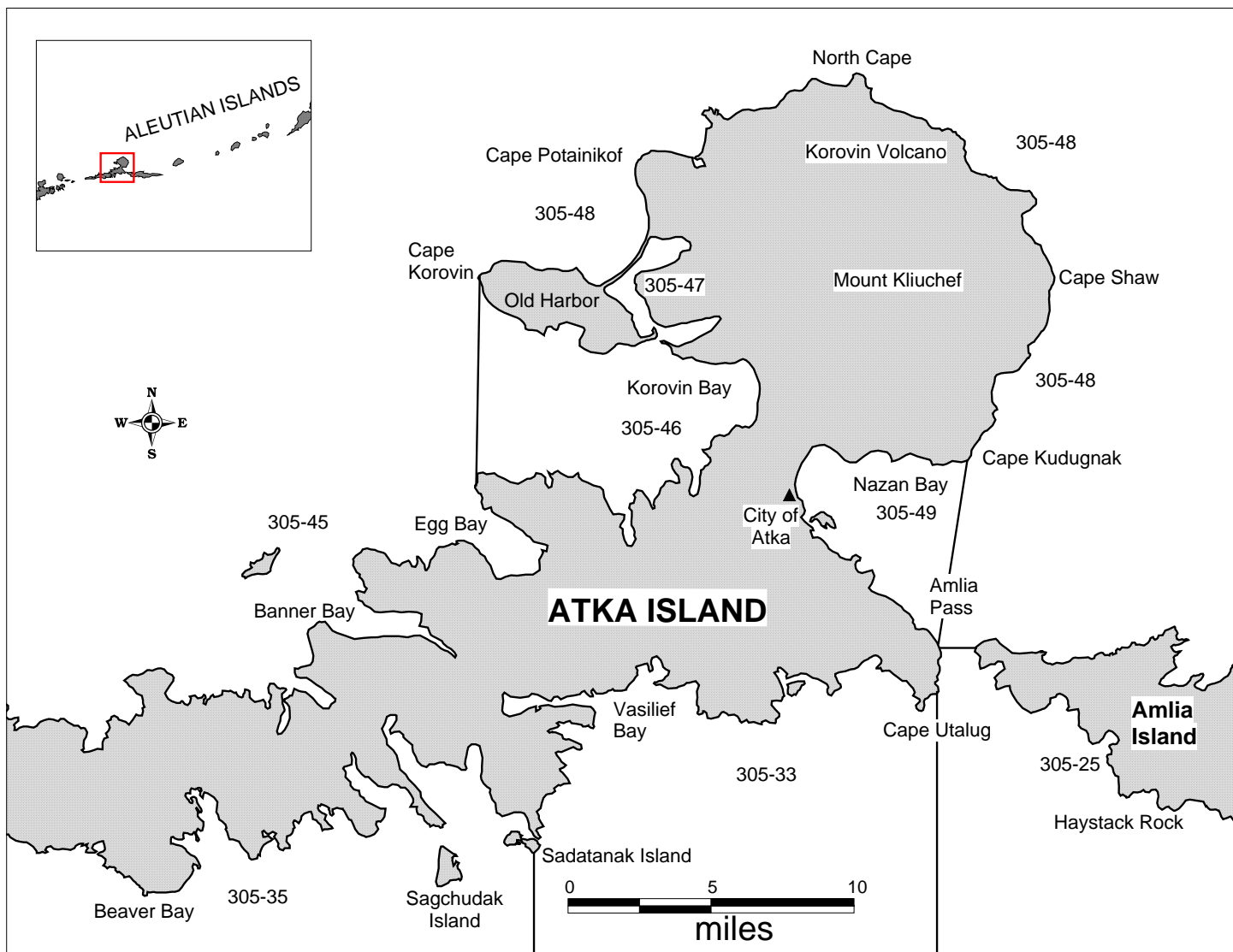
**Figure 1.**-Map of the Aleutian Islands, Atka-Amlia Islands, and Alaska Peninsula Areas.



**Figure 2.-**Map of waters closed to commercial salmon fishing in the Iliuliuk Harbor vicinity.



**Figure 3.-**Map of waters closed to commercial salmon fishing at Humpback Bay, within Makushin Bay.



**Figure 4.-**Map of Atka Island with Korovin Bay, Old Harbor, and Nazan Bay fishing areas defined.